

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SPM-01 AGR-20 SCCT-02 M-02 SCI-06 IO-14 DLOS-07 COA-02

HEW-08 EUR-25 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /243 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3598

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 7457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S FOURTH STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

1. SUMMARY: IN A LONG (4 HOURS, 40 MINUTES), SOMETIMES IMPASSIONED, SOMETIMES TEDIOUS, SPEECH (INFORME), INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE 91 TIMES (16 STANDING OVATIONS INCLUDING ONE IN WHICH THE ASSEMBLAGE BURST INTO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM), PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA CALLED ON ALL MEXICANS TO UNITE AGAINST FORCES WHICH SEEK TO RETARD PROGRESS TOWARD COMMON GOALS AND FOMENT DISSENSION. HE REASSERTED TRADITIONAL MEXICAN THEMES OF INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERVENTION, EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOCUS OF GOM EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE NEEDS AND WISHES OF THE MAJORITY ELEMENTS IN MEXICAN SOCIETY, (BUT TILTED TOWARD LABOR). HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED EXISTING EXCHANGE RATE OF 12.50 PARITY WITH U.S. DOLLAR. HIS REFERENCES TO THE U.S. WERE BOTH MORE EXTENSIVE AND GENERALLY MORE CORDIAL THAN IN LAST YEAR'S INFORME. DESPITE THE LENGTH OF HIS PREPARED TEXT (114 DOUBLE-SPACED PAGES IN ENGLISH VERSION), HE FREQUENTLY AD-LIBBED ADDITONS. ECHEVERRIA TREATED MAJOR TOPICS AS INDICATED IN LISTING BELOW AND IN SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS. EMBASSY WILL REVIEW INFORME IN GREATER CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPTH AND REPORT LATER ANY SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF FURTHER ANALYSIS.

POPULATION - MEXICO MUST RATIONALIZE POPULATION INCREASE:

TERRORISM - REITERATION OF FIRM GOM STAND, NO DEALS WITH
TERRORISTS AND KIDNAPPERS;

AGRICULTURAL REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT - RECOGNIZE THREAT OF
URBAN ENCROACHMENT, WILL HOLD DOWN CONSUMER PRICES ON FOUR BASIC
FOODS WHILE GRANTING PRICE INCREASES TO FARMERS;

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - DEFENDED GOVERNMENT ROLE IN
OWNERSHIP AND IN PROTECTING NATIONAL INTEREST WITH RESPECT TO
TECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT;

LABOR SITUATION - STRONG GOM STAND ON SIDE OF LABOR IN CURRENT
WAGE DEMAND, RAISE FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1;

DEVALUATION AND INFLATION - RECOGNIZING THE SPECULATION AGAINST
THE PESO IN PRECEDING WEEKS, THE PRESIDENT STRONGLY DEFENDED CURRENT
EXCHANGE RATE AND SYSTEM; REEMPHASIZED GOM DETERMINATION TO REDUCE
INFLATION, BUT NOT AT ALL COSTS;

RELATIONS WITH U.S. - RECOGNITION OF AND APPRECIATION FOR
U.S. COMPLIANCE WITH SALINITY SETTLEMENT, FORTHCOMING MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT FORD, HOPEFUL TONE ON BRACERO ISSUE;

OTHER FOREIGN RELATIONS - INDEPENDENT, NON-ISOLATIONIST OUTLOOK,
THIRD WORLD LINKS, RECENT PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL, REINCORPORATION
OF CUBA IN IA SYSTEM, "FAILURE" OF LOS CONFERENCE DUE TO SELFISH
INTERESTS OF RICH COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. POPULATION - IT IS POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT THAT THE REAFFIRMATION OF
GOM POPULATION POLICY CAME IN THE FIRST FEW MINUTES OF THE REPORT.
WHILE MAKING THE USUAL OBEISANCES TO SOVEREIGNTY, TO THE RIGHT
OF INDIVIDUALS TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO
THE NEED FOR AN IMPROVED WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, THE PRESIDENT MADE
CLEAR THAT MEXICO MUST "ALSO CREATE THE AWARENESS BY ALL MEANS AT
OUR DISPOSAL THAT OUR COUNTRY MUST RATIONALIZE POPULATION INCREASE
FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS."

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3. TERRORISM - ECHEVERRIA WON EMOTIONAL SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT BY
HIS FIRM STAND ON THIS SUBJECT. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES HAVE STATED,
HE SAID, AND HE REPEATED: "PUBLIC ORDER IS NOT NEGOTIABLE AND
WE WILL NOT COME TO TERMS WITH CRIMINALS." HE ANALYZED THE
PHENOMENON OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE FOLLOWING WAY: THE GOM
IS THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCE IN MEXICO, COMMITTED TO CHANGE WHICH
IS THE RESULT OF OPEN AND CONSCIOUS PARTICIPATION OF ALL SECTORS,
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LAW AND OF PUBLIC ORDER; ACTS OF VIOLENCE

HAVE NO PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE OF DIALOGUE AND FREE PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS; VIOLENCE IS THEREFORE SPONSORED BY COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FORCES, BY THOSE WHO FEEL THREATENED BY A PROGRESSIVE REGIME. THE SOURCES OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY MAY BE OBSCURE, BUT THEIR INTENTION IS CLEAR: TO STIMULATE REPRESSION AND DISSENSION. ECHEVERRIA CALLED FOR UNITY, RECALLING THAT TWICE IN MEXICAN HISTORY MEXICO HAD SUFFERED MAJOR MILITARY INTERVENTION (IN 1847, IN WHICH MEXICO LOST MORE THAN HALF ITS TERRITORY IN AN UNJUST WAR, AND THE SUBSEQUENT FRENCH INTERVENTION) DUE TO DISUNITY AND DISSENSION. NO TERRORIST FORCES, HE SAID, WOULD DETER THE GOM FROM ITS REVOLUTIONARY PURPOSES. CITING SPECIFICALLY THE KIDNAPPINGS OF SENATOR FIGUEROA AND EX-GOVERNOR ZUNO (MRS. ECHEVERRIA'S FATHER), ECHEVERRIA COMMENTED AD LIB ON HIS VIEWS OF THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND YOUNG TERRORISTS. THEY CAME, HE THOUGHT, FROM BROKEN HOMES, UNDERWENT TRAUMATIC ADOLESCENCE, WERE INCLINED TOWARD DRUG ADDICTION AND SEXUAL PROMISCUITY (INCLUDING BOTH MALE AND FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY)--ALL OF THESE FACTORS TYPICAL OF A DEEP SENSE OF INADEQUACY AND INFERIORITY. HE CONTINUED WITH A CLEARLY STRONGLY FELT ATTACK ON THE INFLUENCE OF MEDIA (TV, THE YELLOW PRESS, UNWHOLESOME PERIODICALS) WHICH HE THOUGHT STIMULATED THE TERRORISTS. HE CONCLUDED THAT MEXICO HAD PROBLEMS AND ALWAYS WOULD, BUT WOULD FACE THEM UNITED. MRS. ECHEVERRIA, IN THE PRESIDENTIAL BOX, LED A STANDING OVATION WHICH TURNED INTO THE SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

4. AGRICULTURAL REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT - PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING ITEMS HERE WAS THE RECOGNITION OF THE INVASION OF "EJIDOS" BY URBAN LANDOWNERS; OF URBAN ENCROACHMENT ON RURAL AREAS. THE PRESENT SITUATION AND PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE REVIEWED AT LENGTH. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD FULFILLED COMMITMENT OF NOT ALLOWING NEW INCREASES IN PRICE OF TORTILLAS, WHITE BREAD, COOKING OILS AND DEHYDRATED MILK DURING 1974. CONASUPO INCREASED SUBSIDIES FOR POORER CLASS CONSUMPTION FROM ONE BILLION TO OVER

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THREE BILLION PESOS TO PROTECT THE SOCIAL INTEREST. AT THE SAME TIME, GUARANTEED FARM COMMODITY PRICES HAD BEEN RAISED AND WOULD BE RAISED AGAIN TO MAKE THEM PROFITABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

5. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT MEXICO'S EARLIER SACRIFICES IN TAKING CONTROL OF CERTAIN BASIC INDUSTRIES AND SUBSOIL RESOURCES WERE NOW VINDICATED BY THE PRESENT WORLD ENERGY CRISIS. PREVIOUS PRICE SUBSIDIES FOR PEMEX WERE DESCRIBED AS AFFECTING THE COUNTRY'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT. REFERRING TO MEXICO'S NEW OIL FIELDS, THE PRESIDENT SAID MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPORT SOME REFINED PRODUCTS ONLY UNTIL NEW PLANTS WERE COMPLETED. DESCRIBING STATE-OWNED COMPANIES AS SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THE PRESIDENT STATED FLATLY THAT STATE-OWNED COMPANIES CAN NEVER REVERT TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP FOR ANY REASON. THE PRESIDENT CALLED

ATTENTION TO THE EXHIBIT, "IS MEXICO THE BEST INVESTMENT" AND
POINTED OUT THAT 400 IMPORT ITEMS SHOWN COULD BE PRODUCED
IMMEDIATELY IN MEXICO. REFERRING TO THE NEW REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT
CONTRACTS FOR THE USE OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, THE PRESIDENT SAID
THAT EXAMINATION OF SOME 5,884 CONTRACTS SHOWED SERIOUS RESTRICTIONS
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AND DISADVANTAGES FOR MEXICO. ONLY SHORT MENTION WAS MADE OF
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

6. LABOR SITUATION - ECHEVERRIA SAID ECONOMIC PRESSURES WERE
AFFECTING THE MEXICAN WAY OF LIFE AND DECLARED THAT LABOR WAS IN
NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RISE IN LIVING COSTS, YET IT HAD
SEEN ITS ALREADY MEAGER SHARE OF THE NATIONAL INCOME FURTHER
REDUCED. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE
WORKERS, REAFFIRMED THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO STRIKE, AND DESCRIBED
LABOR UNREST AS THE RESULT OF THE DETERIORATION OF THE STANDARD OF
LIVING AND VIOLATION OF LAWS DESIGNED TO PROTECT WORKERS. HE
CRITICIZED THE BUSINESS SECTOR AS THOSE WHO RAISED PRICES AND THEN
INVOKED ECONOMIC REASONS FOR OPPOSING WAGE INCREASES. HE CITED THE
CONSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINES THAT WAGES SHOULD BE REMUNERATIVE,

SUFFICIENT AND FAIR, CONCLUDING THAT THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN PRICE INCREASES AND LAGGING SALARIES HAD TO BE CORRECTED. ECHEVERRIA ANNOUNCED THAT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1 GOVERNMENT WORKERS' SALARIES WOULD BE INCREASED IN PROPORTION TO THE LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER SUFFERED, BUT DECLINED TO DEFINE THAT QUANTITY. RATHER, CALLING UPON BUSINESS NOT TO EVADE DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION, HE SAID AMOUNT CONFIDENTIAL

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OF GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AFTER AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE WORKERS AND PRIVATE SECTOR. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO SUBMIT LEGISLATION CALLING FOR ANNUAL WAGE CONTRACT REVISION, NOTING THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD FACED A PERIOD OF PROLONGED INFLATION.

7. DEVALUATION AND INFLATION - PRESIDENT CLAIMED THAT REAL GROWTH OVER PAST YEARS WAS 7 PERCENT, IN SPITE OF WORLD AND DOMESTIC INFLATION, LATTER OF WHICH HE BLAMED ON INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. ON EXTERNAL SIDE, HE SAID: "I REITERATE OUR WILL AND CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN INVARIABLE THE 12.5 RATE OF EXCHANGE WITH THE DOLLAR, WITHOUT

RECOURSE TO EXCHANGE CONTROLS, RESPECTING MERCHANDISE TRADE SERVICES AND CAPITAL, AS PART OF THE BASIC POLICY OF DEFENDING THE INTERNAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND CONFIDENCE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INCREASE SAVINGS FOR PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT IN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY." (HE SAID TOTAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RESERVES WERE \$2,468 MILLION.) IN EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS, PRESIDENT SCOLDED BOTH MEXICAN AND FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND POSSIBLY SOME OF THOSE PRESENT FOR SENDING CAPITAL ABROAD AND IGNORING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT HOME. TEXT WENT ON TO SAY FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION WOULD BE APPLIED WITH ENERGY FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY, BUT WITHOUT ALTERING BASIC SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE: (A) NEW POLICY OF FINANCING DEVELOPMENT BASED ON INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE, (B) NO RECOURSE TO INFLATIONARY FINANCING OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES IN 1975, (C) TIGHT CREDIT POLICY WITH EMPHASIS ON PRODUCTIVE LOANS TO SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES, (D) INCOMES POLICY THAT PROVIDES

FOR RECOVERY OF WORKERS' PURCHASING POWER AND TIES SALARY INCREASES TO PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES; (E) STRUCTURING OF MECHANISM THAT INSURES REASONABLE PRICES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES, AND BRAKES ABUSES, SPECULATION, ETC.; (F) WILLINGNESS TO IMPORT ALL BASIC FOODSTUFFS NECESSARY TO FEED POPULATION AND TO SELL SUCH AT REASONABLE PRICES. PRESIDENT SAID THAT ANTI-INFLATIONARY PROGRAMS WOULD NOT OVERRIDE POLICIES OF EMPLOYMENT AND ALSO WARNED THAT SOME OF BASIC PRINCIPLES COULD BE SACRIFICED IF SAVINGS AND PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT FAIL TO INCREASE.

8. RELATIONS WITH U.S. - ECHEVERRIA-COMMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE MORE EXTENSIVE AND, IN TONE AND CONTENT, MORE CORDIAL THAN THOSE IN HIS LAST INFORME. MUCH OF HIS COMMENTARY ON THIS SUBJECT WAS AD LIB, AND HE WAS CLEARLY GRATIFIED BY PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION CONFIDENTIAL

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TO A MEETING AT THE BORDER IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ON THE SUBJECT OF BRACEROS, HE MENTIONED MEXICO'S RECENT AGREEMENT WITH CANADA BUT SAID EFFORTS TO REACH A SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE U.S. HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ONLY LONG-RANGE SOLUTION WAS THROUGH MEXICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT HE INSISTED THAT THE GOM WOULD FIGHT TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF ITS WORKERS ABROAD, "WHATEVER THEIR LEGAL STATUS." ECHEVERRIA DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL THAN LAST YEAR THE SOLUTION OF THE COLORADO RIVER SALINITY PROBLEM. IN 1972, HE SAID HE ACCEPTED PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE U.S. AND EXPLAINED TO HIM MEXICO'S CONCERN OVER THE SALINITY PROBLEM; HE WAS ASSURED THAT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER PROVIDED TO MEXICO WOULD IMPROVE. THE USG, ECHEVERRIA SAID, HAS FULFILLED EVERY ONE OF ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE SALINITY SETTLEMENT. HE CITED FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA'S RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE, BASED ON MEXICO'S "TRULY FRIENDLY RELATIONS" WITH THE U.S., THAT OTHER PROBLEMS - WHICH WILL ALWAYS EXIST BETWEEN NEIGHBORS - CAN BE WORKED OUT IN THE SAME WAY AS THE SALINITY PROBLEM. THAT IS THE WAY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH, AND WHEN A RICH AND POWERFUL COUNTRY DEALS EQUITABLY WITH POOR COUNTRIES, THIS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND APPLAUDED. IN NOTING THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS INVITED HIM TO A MEETING AT THE BORDER; ECHEVERRIA PLEDGED HIMSELF TO DEFEND MEXICAN INTERESTS AS ALWAYS. IN DESCRIBING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS IN AND AROUND THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, ECHEVERRIA SAID WORK ON THE INNER BELTWAY WAS BEING EXPEDITED. HE DID NOT MENTION DELAYS OCCASIONED BY THE PROBLEM OF THE AMERICAN CEMETERY.

9. OTHER FOREIGN RELATIONS - IN SECTION WHICH CONTAINED LITTLE NEW, ECHEVERRIA REITERATED WELL-KNOWN PHILOSOPHY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION THAT

ATTEMPTED ISOLATION FROM REALITY OF INTERDEPENDENCE WAS TO BE PASSIVE AND DEPENDENT. INDEPENDENCE REQUIRED AN ACTIVIST INTERNATIONAL POSTURE, ENERGETICALLY DEFENDING MEXICAN INTERESTS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE THIRD WORLD TO WHICH IT BELONGED. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO U.S. IN HIS SPEECH, ECHEVERRIA REITERATED GOM SYMPATHY WITH ALLENDE REGIME AND DECLARED GOM WOULD STRIVE TO SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONAL REGIMES THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE (STANDING OVATION). HE BRIEFLY RECAPITULATED HIGHLIGHTS OF EUROPEAN TRIP FEBRUARY 1974, TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE (MENTIONING ONLY THOSE AGENDA ITEMS SPONSORED BY MEXICO), PROGRESS TOWARD CHARTER APPROVAL, AND SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP. WITH REGARD TO LATTER HE PLACED MOST EMPHASIS ON VENEZUELAN

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CHIEF-OF STATE CONFERENCE, SAYING MEXICO WOULD ATTEND WHETHER OR NOT OTHER COUNTRIES DID. COMMENTING ON THE OAS, ECHEVERRIA SAID THAT WITH

EVERY DAY THAT PASSES, THE ORGANIZATION BECOMES LESS "OPERATIVE." THE OAS MUST NOT, HE THOUGHT, REJECT THE "REALITY OF POLITICAL PLURALISM." (ELSEWHERE, HE CALLED THE PRESENCE OF CUBA IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM "INDISPENSABLE" AND ASSERTED THAT THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE ON CUBA MUST BE LIFTED.) HE REITERATED MEXICO'S SUPPORT FOR PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL, NOTED MEXICO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, CALLED FOR LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION OVER RATIFICATION BY FRANCE AND THE PRC OF PROTOCOLS OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. ECHEVERRIA REITERATED MEXICO'S LOS POSITION (TERRITORIAL WATERS OF 12 MILES AND PATRIMONIAL WATERS TO 200 MILES OFFSHORE) AND HE EXPRESSED GOM SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE SEA FOR BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY. THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE FAILED, HE SAID, BECAUSE OF THE SELFISH INTERESTS OF THE RICH COUNTRIES. FINALLY, ECHEVERRIA MENTIONED BRIEFLY HIS PROPOSAL, DURING HIS RECENT LATIN AMERICAN TOUR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LA AGENCY FOR CONSULTATION AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

10 COMMENT: MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL INFORMES ARE UNWIELDY ALL-PURPOSE MESSAGES CONTAINING MASSES OF STATISTICAL DATA (ACCOMPLISHMENTS), REAFFIRMATIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY GOALS AND EXHORTATORY APPEALS. THE FUNCTION SERVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AS A FORMALIZED AND CEREMONIAL EXPRESSION OF THE "REVOLUTIONARY" CONSENSUS (AS PERCEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISERS) WHICH HAS GOVERNED MEXICO FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS. INFORMES ARE NOT THE OCCASION FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MARKED CHANGE IN POLICY. END COMMENT.
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